

Informal Drug Policy Dialogue, Warsaw, February 14-16, 2013

This year's TNI/Diogenes Informal Drug Policy Dialogue took place in Warsaw from 14-16 February 2013. The meeting was co-hosted by the Polish National Bureau for Drug Prevention and organised as part of our EC project on new approaches in drug policy and interventions (co funded by OSF).

Thirty six drug policy officials and NGO experts from Europe and Latin America came together to have an open exchange of views on current drug policy developments.

The dialogue started with a presentation of the Polish national drug strategy and the drug situation in Poland. Next on the agenda was the elaboration of the EU Action Plan after the adoption of the EU Drugs Strategy; the participants of the meeting were generally positive about the contents of the strategy and felt it was of political importance that the member states adopted this strategy which clearly puts human rights at the core.

The first draft of the new Plan of Action will set the general lines of the Plan, civil society representatives were encouraged to approach their national drug coordinator to influence the Plan.

All Friday (15) afternoon was dedicated to cannabis policy developments. Specific input on Uruguay, USA, Switzerland and Denmark was given, as well as on cannabis and the UN Drug Conventions. To what extent do the cannabis policy developments require an amendment of the UN conventions, what would be the best strategy to allow cannabis policy to further development?

Saturday (16) morning looked into the decriminalisation of possession of drugs for personal use and the role of threshold quantities. Experiences from Poland and Italy were shared and a draft all encompassing overview of different decriminalisation scenarios possible was presented.

The final session of the dialogue discussed the relevant issues on the agenda of the 56th session of the CND (11-15 March 2013) and other international fora. On Saturday afternoon the dialogue was concluded with a visit to the Eleuteria treatment centre.

An elaborate report of the Dialogue proceedings will be published on our website in due time.